

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an apparatus for filtering and separating fluids, including a pressure-tight housing having a fluid inlet, a retentate outlet and a permeate outlet, a plurality of stacks of membrane filter elements are arranged in the housing adjacent one another and joined such that the fluid is conducted through the stacks of membrane filter element in a series flow pattern and each stack includes a plurality of spaced membrane pillows arranged in spaced relationship such that the fluid is conducted in a meander-like pattern through the stack.